

Applications for membership on the Commission on Aging are accepted once each year.

To apply, send a letter of interest and a resume to:

County Executive Isiah Leggett
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850



Commission on Aging

**For more information contact:
Commission on Aging**

Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services
401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-777 1120 (Voice)
240 777 1236 (TTY)

www.montgomgomerycountymd.gov/seniors
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/coa

**For information on Programs and Services for
Montgomery County Seniors
contact the
Aging and Disability Resource Unit**

240-777-3000 (Voice)
240-777-4575 (TTY)
hhsmail@montgomerycountymd.gov

April 2011

Montgomery County, Maryland

Commission on Aging

Remember, Seniors Count!



What is the Commission on Aging?

The Commission on Aging (COA) serves as an advocate for the health, safety, and well-being of the County's senior residents. The Commission supports both safety net services for the frail elderly and programs to meet the interests and needs of older adults who want to age in their communities. The COA identifies significant issues where its voice on the needs of seniors can make a difference.

The COA advises the County Executive, the County Council and County government including the Area Agency on Aging. It also advocates for seniors at the State and Federal levels.

The goals of the COA are to:

- Advocate for the safety net for seniors regardless of budgetary pressures;
- Monitor County government programs to increase responsiveness to the needs of seniors;

- Focus attention on the capacity of seniors to participate fully in community life;
- Advocate for the range of support services for seniors who choose to remain independent in their community and/or their own homes ("Aging in Place").

The COA is comprised of at least 18 County residents who are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. New members are appointed annually and serve a three-year term. ■

Committees

The COA uses a committee process to develop positions on budget and legislative priorities. Committee members examine issues in depth and make recommendations to the Executive Committee and the full Commission.

The COA meets in full session once each month and holds committee meetings during the month.

Members serve on four standing committees, special task forces and groups that meet during the summer to study in-depth key issues affecting seniors. All meetings are open to the public. In addition, the COA holds “stakeholder” meetings during the year to stay informed about issues of concern to seniors. ■

**Communication and
Community Outreach
Committee**

- Advises and makes recommendations to County leaders about providing residents with education and information on County programs for seniors.
- Collaborates with other Commission committees to identify communication needs of County seniors, develop communication messages, and propose communication approaches.
- Supports outreach and communication to stakeholder groups.

- Advises Commission on Aging leadership on outreach and communication related to advocacy.■

Health and Wellness Committee

- Focuses attention on both the physical and mental health needs of seniors.
- Assesses and evaluates health and wellness issues.
- Develops and provides recommendations and advice about health and wellness issues to County leaders.■

Public Policy Committee

- Examines policies, programs, and proposals of the local, state and federal governments for their effect on the lives of County seniors.
- Recommends advocacy positions to the Commission.
- Cooperates with legislators and other government officials on design and development of

policies and services to enhance the lives of County seniors.

- Collaborates with other Commission committees on advocacy efforts.■

**Aging in Place / in the
Community Committee**

- Identifies issues that enable older adults to age either in their own homes or in other environments in the Community and provides recommendations and advice to County leaders about these issues.
- Advocates for the development by both the public and private sectors of a transportation and mobility plan to address the diverse transportation needs of seniors in the County.
- Collaborates with transportation providers to resolve broad transportation concerns of seniors.
- Identifies and focuses attention on other issues that contribute to the ability of older adults to age in the community, including affordable housing and social isolation. ■

Selected Achievements

- Recommended actions to support and advance the concept of “Aging-in-Place” for interested seniors.
- Monitored and participated with County workgroups implementing recommendations of the 2008 Senior Summit.
- Sought and supported development of the first County Web site, Listserv, and new publications on services and programs for seniors.
- Achieved funding for much-needed repairs at selected Senior Centers.
- Advocated for the Community Health Improvement Process (CHIP) to help assure that all County Residents have access to needed health care services and to identify and reduce health disparities. ■